(d) whether on achieving this targets negative impact of climate change would be neutralized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) Ongoing and newly introduced Schemes of Central and State Governments for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands and Afforesations/tree planting help in increasing the Forest and Tree Cover. The targets for Afforesation/Tree planting monitored under 20 Point Programme are fixed by this Ministry annually. These targets are to be achieved within that financial year. The targets and achievements to tree planting on public and forest lands during last five years are as follows :-

Area in million ha.

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Targets	Achievement
1.	2004-05	1.47	1.13
2.	2005-06	1.63	1.48
3.	2006-07	1.85	1.65
4.	2007-08	1.86	1.54
5.	2008-09	1.77	1.67

(d) The plants/trees trap carbon dioxide and thereby help in mitigating climate change impact also.

Discussion on Climate Change Policy

308. SHRI D. RAJA :
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any discussion at any level so as to have a national consensus on climate change policy and Indiaus stand at the forthcoming meeting at Copenhagen; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Prime Ministerus Council on Climate Change meets from time to time to oversee and guide the approach to climate change policy including formulation and approval of specific initiatives relating to implementation of uIndiaus National Action Plan on Climate Changeu. An institutional mechanism consisting of Policy Planning Group and Core Negotiating Group also functions with a view to help formulate the negotiating strategy on climate change with the necessary approvals from appropriate levels.

Forest Cover

309. SHRI P. R. RAJAN :
SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the present forest cover in the coutnry, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the reason for decrease in cover, wherever it has been reduced and the reason for the increased wherever there is an increase in the percentage of the cover; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to increase the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS : (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Present forest cover of the country State and Union Territory-wise is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) Reasons are given in the the Statement-II (See below) and forest cover change is given in the Statement-III (See below).

(c) Various steps have been taken under Central and State Government Schemes to increase the forest cover which include National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Forest Protecton Scheme, Eco-Development Force (EDF) Scheme, Grants-in- Aid for Greening India Scheme, Gram Van Yojana (GVY) for afforestation on non forest lands, Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for afforestation, Regeneration of degraded forests etc.

Statement-I

*Forest Cover in States/UTs in India (SFR 2005)**

(Area in km2)

State/UT	Forest cover
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	44.372
Arunachal Pradesh	67.777
Assam	27.645
Bihar	5.579
Chhattisgarh	55.863
Delhi	176
Goa	2.164
Gujarat	14.715
Haryana	1.587
Himachal Pradesh	14.369
Jammu & Kashmir	21.273
Jharkhand	22.591
Karnataka	35.251
Kerala	15.595
Madhva Pradesh	76.013
Maharashtra	47.476
Manipur	17.086

1	2
Meghalaya	16.988
Mizoram	18.684
Nagaland	13.719
Orissa	48.374
Punjab	1,558
Rajasthan	15.850
Sikkim	3.262
Tamil Nadu	23.044
Tripura	8.155
Uttar Pradesh	14.127
Uttarakhand	24.442
West Benaal	12.413
Andaman & Nicobar	6.629
Chandigarh	15
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	221
Daman & Diu	8
Lakshadweep	25
Pondicherry	42
TOTAL :	677.088

*SFR 2005 - State of Forest Report 2005 by Forest Survey of India.

Statement-II

Main reasons for loss in the forest cover

Loss: The main reasons for loss in the forest cover in States where significant change has taken place, are mentioned below:-

Nagaland - shifting cultivation and gregarious flowering of muli bamboo

A&N Islands - destruction due to Tsunami

Manipur - shifting cultivation

Madhya Pradesh - submergence of forest area due to construction of dams

Chhattisgarh - submergence of forest area due to construction of dams, felling of trees

Gujarat - large scale felling and uprooting of *Prospis juliflora* trees from the revenue lands

Assam - illicit felling in insurgency affected areas and due to shifting

Andhra Pradesh- departmental fellings and naxalite disturbances

Maharashtra- departmental felling

Uttarakhand- rotational felling of Eucalyptus and Poplar & rehabilitation of Gujars in Haridwar districts

Increase: The main reasons for increase in the forest cover in States where significant change has taken place, are mentioned below:-

Mizoram- re-growth in the abandoned shifting cultivation areas in all the districts

Arunachal Pradesh- regrowth in shifting cultivation areas and partly due to plantations.

Meghalaya- re-growth in the abandoned area of shifting cultivation

Tamil Nadu- plantations of miscellaneous species in many districts

Tripura- regrowth of abandoned shifting cultivation areas

Rajasthan- plantations of misc. species and regrowth

West Bengal- improvement of tree cover in tea plantation area and protection & plantations

Jharkhand- coppice growth of sal due to protection provided by VFC and plantations

Orissa- improvement in shifting cultivation areas

Punjab- plantations in private lands

Haryana- coppice growth of misc. species and plantations

Himachal Pradesh- plantations

Bihar- plantations

Karnataka- plantations

Delhi- plantations

Statement-III

Change in the forestu cover of States/UTs between 2003 and 2005 (SFR 2005) *

(Area in km2)

States/UT	2003 Assessment (Previous) Forest Cover	2005 Assessment (latest) Forest Cover	Change in Forest Cover
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	44,412	44,372	-40
Arunachal Pradesh	67,692	67,777	85
Assam	27,735	27,645	-90
Bihar	5,573	5,579	6
Chhattisgarh	55,992	55,863	-129
Delhi	174	176	2
Goa	2,164	2,164	0
Gujarat	14,814	14,715	-99
Haryana	1,576	1,587	11
Himachal Pradesh	14,359	14,369	10
Jammu & Kashmir	21,273	21,273	0
Jharkhand	22,569	22,591	22
Karnataka	35,246	35,251	5

1	2	3	4
Kerala	15,595	15,595	0
Madhya Pradesh	76,145	76,013	-132
Maharashtra	47,514	47,476	-38
Manipur	17,259	17,086	-173
Meghalaya	16,925	16,988	63
Mizoram	18,583	18,684	101
Nagaland	14,015	13,719	-296
Orissa	48,353	48,374	21
Punjab	1,545	1,558	13
Rajasthan	15,821	15,850	29
Sikkim	3,262	3,262	0
Tamil Nadu	23,003	23,044	41
Tripura	8,123	8,155	32
Uttar Pradesh	14,127	14,127	0
Uttaranchal	24,460	24,442	-18
West Bengal	12,389	12,413	24
Andaman & Nicobar	6,807	6.629	-178
Chandigarh	15	15	0
Dadra Nagar Haveli	221	221	0
Daman & Diu	8	8	0
Lakshadweep	25	25	0
Pondicherry	42	42	0
GRAND TOTAL	677,816	677,088	-728

*SFR 2005 - State of Forest Report 2005 by Forest Survey of India

Schemes to increase forest cover

†310. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to deal with the negative effect of climate change it is essential to increase the forest cover;

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.